



## LOCAL NEWS AUGUST 2006

### American Masterpieces Guidelines Now Available

#### American Masterpieces: Three Centuries of Artistic Genius

The National Endowment for the Arts launched a new initiative in 2005 to support the presentation of American Masterpieces and works by American Masters. *American Masterpieces: Three Centuries of Artistic Genius* for this inaugural year is made up of three components: touring, local presentations, and arts education, in the disciplines of dance, musical theatre, choral music and visual art. Programs presenting acknowledged past and present masterpieces will be supported in large and small communities in all 50 states.

In addition to the national initiative, state arts agencies across the country are developing their own American Masterpiece programs to support the work of artists and arts organizations in their own states.

**Arizona's American Masters/Masterpieces** initiative seeks to ensure that Arizona citizens continue to have access to America's cultural legacy.

#### Background

*American Masterpieces: Three Centuries of Artistic Genius* consists of three components - touring, local presentations, and arts education. Programs presenting acknowledged past and present masterpieces will tour to large and small communities in all 50 states.

In Arizona, this first pilot year will highlight choral music, dance, musical theater, visual arts. In addition to the national initiative, state arts agencies across the country are developing their own American Masterpiece programs to support the work of artists and arts organizations in their own states. Arizona's American Masterpieces initiative seeks to ensure that Arizona citizens continue to have access to America's cultural legacy.

#### Application Process:

Read the guidelines and sample application (download below) and then go to the Commission's Electronic Grants Online Resource (EGOR) to complete your application at [www.culturegrants-az.org](http://www.culturegrants-az.org).

You will need to make a profile or access your existing profile (current grantees), click Start to begin a Project grant and select **American Masterpieces** from the pull down list on the Project Type page of the application.

For more information, go to [www.azarts.gov/americanmasterpieces](http://www.azarts.gov/americanmasterpieces)

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### Arizona Folk Arts Apprenticeship Program

The Folk Arts Apprenticeship Program is a pilot program in Arizona that supports folk master artists and apprentices working and studying together. It is a collaborative program between the Arizona Commission on the

Arts and the Southwest Center at the University of Arizona. This program is made possible by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

The purpose of the Arizona Folk Arts Apprenticeship Program is to honor and maintain the traditional folk arts practiced in Arizona by contracting with master folk artists to further educate their art forms to dedicated apprentices.

The intent of this program is to support the learning of the artform itself to continue its practice in the same cultural context in which the master practices. Also, there is an expectation that the apprentice him/herself will continue to pass on the artform learned from the master, by teaching others or sharing with others in the community the artform in an ongoing fashion.

All forms of folk arts with extensive roots and documentation in the community will be considered.

For more information, go to [www.azarts.gov/folkarts/apprentice.htm](http://www.azarts.gov/folkarts/apprentice.htm)

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## NEA Announces The Big Read

The Big Read is an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts, in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and in cooperation with Arts Midwest. It is designed to revitalize the role of literature in American popular culture and bring the transformative power of literature into the lives of its citizens. The Big Read works with multiple partners across the country to encourage citizens to read for pleasure and enlightenment.

The Big Read answers a big need. Reading at Risk: A Survey of Literary Reading in America, a 2004 report by the National Endowment for the Arts, found that not only is literary reading in America declining rapidly among all groups, but that the rate of decline has accelerated, especially among the young. The concerned citizen in search of good news about American literary culture would study the pages of this report in vain.

The Big Read aims to address this crisis squarely and effectively. It provides citizens with the opportunity to read and discuss a single book within their communities. The initiative includes innovative reading programs in selected cities and towns, comprehensive resources for discussing classic literature, an ambitious national publicity campaign, and an extensive Web site providing comprehensive information on authors and their works. Each community event lasts approximately one month and includes a kick-off event to launch the program locally, ideally attended by the mayor and other local luminaries; major events devoted specifically to the book (panel discussions, author reading, and the like); events using the book as a point of departure (film screenings, theatrical readings, and so forth); and book discussions in diverse locations and aimed at a wide range of audiences.

Ten communities participated in the pilot phase of The Big Read. The communities, selected through a competitive review process, ranged across the country from major metropolitan areas to small rural towns. Communities in the pilot phase read one of four books: F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*, Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451*, Zora Neale Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, or Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Activities occurred from February 2006 through June 2006.

The Big Read continues to expand to include more communities and additional books.

For more information, go to [www.neabigread.org](http://www.neabigread.org).

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## What's Going On...

You are invited to attend a summer workshop and community gathering to learn about programs and services for artists through the Arizona Commission on the Arts. The Commission presents ongoing workshops at locations around the state to talk about programs for individual artists, collectives and ensembles, and to hear about projects in communities.

There is no charge and no registration is needed. For more information, call 602-255-5882 or email [info@azarts.gov](mailto:info@azarts.gov). To find a workshop near you, go to [www.azarts.gov/calendar](http://www.azarts.gov/calendar).

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## Local News Classifieds

### **Internships, Arizona Commission on the Arts**

The Arizona Commission on the Arts is currently offering 3 internship opportunities for highly motivated and resourceful self-starters with experience or interest in Performing Arts, Public Information, or Visual Arts.

The ACA Internship Program provides emerging leaders in the arts with the opportunity to investigate and participate in the operations of a state arts agency. Through a combination of learning experiences, work projects, and group collaborations, interns become integral members of our team. Interns are expected to participate in daily activities, contribute skills and ideas, and produce excellent work, all the while preparing to become the next generation of arts, nonprofit, and cultural leaders.

The deadline to apply is **15 August 2006**. Please go to <http://www.azarts.gov/opportunities/ACAInternshipOpportunities18July2006.pdf>

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This online newsletter from ACA is published periodically and intends to provide you with current, important information from the field and to support vital, substantive programs throughout the State. Please feel free to send your comments and requests for content information. We look forward to serving your interests and needs.

The Local Arts Development Program works in partnership to conceptualize, research, design and implement programs that have a long-term impact on a local level in underserved, ethnic, rural and emerging communities for organizations and individuals; and to develop programs to impact the work of the local arts agencies around the state.

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This document is available in alternate formats by contact the Arizona Commission on the Arts at 602-255-5882.